AIR POUCH
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/R
PRIORITY

OFFICIAL USE ONLY
(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE
745H.00/7-2955
XR 845H.00

REVIEWED BY [illegible] 7/16/82

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

NEA 16

FROM or: XAS CONGEN TE Lagos, Nigeria
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____ MESSAGE CENTER NO.
ENDORSE-EXISTING MARKING
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

July 29, 1955
DATE

1955 AUG 4 PM 4:04

ACC RA-1 LONDON-1

This Document Must Be Returned to RM/R Central Files

15 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	NEA-4	RM/R-2 OLI-6 A/REP 2 E-4 ICA-10 EUR-5 IO-4
	REC'D 8/3	INFO OTHER C IA-7 OSIA-20 ARMY-4 NAVY-3 AIR-3 AG-7 COM-8

SUBJECT: Sardauna's Report to Northern People's Congress IN-7

8/4

At the annual convention of the Northern People's Congress Party (NPC), held at Maiduguri from June 13-17, the Honorable Mallam AHMADU, Sardauna of Sokoto and Premier of the Northern Region, delivered the enclosed address to the assembled NPC delegates.

In his lengthy speech the Sardauna outlined the political and economic advances effected by the NPC Government's administration during the last three years.

He noted that the number of Northerners in the senior branch of the civil service has been more than doubled (from 28 to 48), while the junior service had increased from 1,189 in 1952 to the present level of 1,961. Summarising the progress made in the establishment of local government bodies and rural schools, the Sardauna claimed that the progress made in the last three years exceeded that of the previous twenty.

In the field of communications the Premier stressed the Government's objective that the control of all Nigerian ports and railways be removed from political jurisdiction and transferred to Public Corporations, to the end that the country's common transportation facilities would be efficiently administered despite the disparate political status of the various regions. He noted that 11 major bridges had been constructed or extended and that 3 motorized ferries have been provided for river crossings where bridges are as yet unfeasible. He mentioned the survey of the Niger and Benue rivers by a Dutch engineering firm, the importance of which he stated "cannot be over-emphasized".

On the industrial side, the Sardauna reported that the region hopes to locate establishments for the manufacture of cement, sacks, cigarettes, sugar, salt, and paper in the near future; the Government hoped that the Region would eventually process all raw materials in its territory.

745H.00/7-2955

FILED
APR 24 1959

LWC

WKCromwell:eod
REPORTER

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY
(Classification)

Since the lending operations of the Regional Production Development Board and the Regional Development Loan Board had not been satisfactory, the Premier said that the Region planned to establish a Farmers' Cooperative Bank to provide loans for members of cooperative farming societies. He urged that the functions of the two Development Boards be merged in one Corporation.

Turning to the Region's political trends, the Sardauna congratulated the people of the Northern Cameroons for "their wise decision to remain with us in the Northern Region". He said their traditional and cultural association with the North explained their refusal to join with the Southern Cameroons in the formation of a separate Region. The Sardauna reaffirmed the NPC's goodwill towards foreigners of any race or tribe who came to the Northern Region to seek employment. So far as the NPC's attitude toward the 1956 Constitutional Revision was concerned, the Sardauna noted that many factors must be reviewed in terms of the Region's present trend of political development. He stated that the NPC has the reputation of being the only Nigerian political party which gives extensive consideration to public opinion before the formation of any major policy decision, and urged that the delegates "think deeply" about the Constitutional questions which will be raised next year.

The speech pictures the beginnings of efforts in the administrative and economic fields to modernize an essentially feudal society. To date, most of the changes have been effected at the Regional level (Kaduna) in the establishment and strengthening of Regional, as opposed to provincial or local institutions. But the local Emirates are now beginning to feel the financial and administrative curbs which the new system of government entails. They do not like it. Considerable criticism was expressed at the Convention by delegates who felt that the Kaduna ministers were too "free-wheeling" and neglected to consult the provinces before reaching decisions. Such criticism probably prompted the Sardauna's remarks concerning the NPC's reliance upon public opinion in the formation of policy.

Significantly omitted from the Premier's report was any discussion of achievements in the educational and public health sectors. Small starts (e.g., the establishment of education and medical faculties at Zaria) have been made in both departments, but progress is negligible in comparison with the need.

Enclosure:
As stated.

Dept: Please pouch copies to Accra and London.

Edward D. McLaughlin
American Consul General

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

0313978139

UNCLASSIFIED
(Classification)

ADDRESS TO NORTHERN PEOPLES CONGRESS CONVENTION AT MAIDUGURI BY SARDAUNA OF SOKOTO, JUNE 17, 1955

Since our last convention in Jos, I know that you all have been aware of the strenous time we have had in connection with the Federal elections into the Nigerian House of Representatives.

You all know that it was an exacting task, demanding much thoughtful planning and effort as well as sacrifices in time and resources.

Yet, we all faced that momentous time with resoluteness and courage, and with God's will we emerged victorious.

We have, therefore, a good reason to be grateful, once again, to the Almighty God for his guidance which has brought us victory and which has once again indicated to the whole world our position as the only trusted and mandated custodians of the interests of our people of the North.

We are grateful to the masses of this country for the great confidence that they have placed in us, by electing us, among all people, to represent their interest in the highest Legislature of the land. For our part, we must pray God to give us the will-power to carry out these onerous responsibilities shouldered on us, both faithfully and conscientiously.

But, nevertheless, I must warn you not to be complacent with the election results; as we must not regard that victory to be an end in itself. There is a large volume of work still before us.

All of you know that there is a great day to which all of us are looking forward in the very near future in 1956. It is therefore imperative for everyone of us to prepare and equip himself for that great day.

I know that you all hear a certain section of the people often asking what the Government has achieved since the N.P.C. has come to power, I shall therefore give a few instances of the achievements of the N.P.C. within that short space of time in which it has been charged with the destiny of the North.

From 1952, when the executive power was vested in our hands, to date, twentyeight Northerners have been promoted to the Senior Service, while some seven hundred and seventy-two have been recruited into the Junior Service. That has made the spectacular

UNCLASSIFIED

and solid contribution to the present number of Northerners in the Northern Civil Service which stands at forty-eight in the Senior Service, and 1,961 in the Junior Service.

You can see that this number is bound to increase every year with the return of our scholars at present overseas, and with the increase of educational institutions which we are undertaking.

Consistent with the N.P.C. policy, an increasing number of people have been given the opportunity of taking part in their own local government system.

N.A. Councils

You all know how enthusiastic we have been in establishing various councils at all levels. The Native Authorities too are doing their best in that direction. From the date of the commencement of the new Native Authority Law, to date, the following number of councils have been established: Outer Councils, 36; Town Councils, 31; and Village Councils, 7,450.

We shall continue with this work, as we consider it essential for every person to be given a chance of having a say in the way in which he is governed and in the way the affairs of his country are administered. The N.P.C. is working in accordance with the wishes of the people.

The educational system in the Region is divided into nine branches: Junior Primary, Senior Primary, Secondary, Post Secondary, (Scholarships), Teacher Training, Moslem Education, Technical Education and Public Enlightenment. Within the three years when the N.P.C. assumed the government of the Region an immense advance has been made in each and everyone of these nine branches.

It can be said, without any exaggeration, that the achievements during these last three years hage exceeded those made during the last twenty years.

Three Trade Centres have been established with twelve handicraft centres attached to the Provincial Secondary Schools for teaching the students various craft.

In the year 1952, some 950 wells were sunk; but in the last year alone the number of wells sunk was, 1,177.

UNCLASSIFIED
(Classification)

Water Supply

You all know that supplying the people with adequate and good water is one of our paramount aims, and we shall continue vigorously with that endeavour.

Among the major constructionworks undertaken within these few years are the Institute of Administration, the Zaria and Keffi Government Colleges, the headquarters of the Adult Education Department, the Higher Teacher Training Centres at Bida, Gombe, Okene, and the extension of the International Airport at Kano to make enough room for the landing of bigger and more modern aeroplanes.

Similarly, great attention has been paid to constructing bridges where necessary, and where the demand is most urgent. To facilitate road transport at river-crossings, engine-powered ferries have been purchased and put into use in Wuya, Yola, Numan, Jega and such other places.

The bridges constructed include the Tubo Bridge in Zaria, 280 feet; Danzaki bridge in Sokoto, 350 feet; Mando bridge in Plateau, 385 feet; Gulbin Boka bridge in Kontagora, 240 feet; Fegge bridge in Kano, constructed by Messrs. Costain, contracting firm, 1,169 feet; Oyi bridge in Ilorin, 552 feet; Haderi bridge in Benue, 285 feet; Borgda bridge in Bauchi, 360 feet; extension of 320 feet to the Mayo Belwa bridge; and work is going on at the Taraba bridge, also in Adamawa Pfovince, of which the total length exceeds 1,000 feet.

More attention has been paid to tarring of roads. In 1952/53, seventy-two miles were tarred, and during last year eighty-one miles were tarred. More inter-provincial (Trunk B) roads with large volumes of traffic have been improved. Work continues on the Kaiama-Bussa-Rofia road, Kaduna-Kachia, Gombe-Numan, Damboa-Bie, Kontagora-Rijau, Mai Inchi-Joga, Yola-Wukari and many other roads.

As regards transport--a Federal subject within the portfolio of one of our Federal Ministers--there have been many spectacular achievements.

One of the great objectives of the N.P.C. is to see that all Ports and Railway undertakings in this country are taken out of the control of the Government and handed over to Corporations.

The great advantage in this is the guarantee that these undertakings can always be most efficiently run without any hinderance from whichever political party is in power. And all

these

these objectives God has helped us to realise.

Now, the major Nigerian ports have been handed over to a Corporation, namely the Nigerian Ports Authority. This will make it difficult for any other Region to try to claim the exclusive monopoly of the coastal harbour facilities.

Another big development has been made with the Railway Department. The affairs of the Railway are now also in the hands of a Corporation.

Everyone of you has learnt of the useful work which the Railway Department has done for the Northern Region during the last three years. They have evacuated all the groundnuts that accumulated in Kano and other centres.

You may also be aware of the team of surveyors now investigating into the possibility of a railway line from Jos to Bauchi, Gombe, Biu, Yola, Numan, and up to Maiduguri. We hope to hear of the result of their investigations in the not too distant future.

There is yet another point of interest concerning transport which everyone of you would like to hear, and that is the investigation at present being carried out on the navigability of the River Niger and the River Benue.

The Government has specially invited experts from Holland who are at present endeavouring to find for us a way of making greater use of these rivers for evacuating our produce as well as importing our commodities from overseas.

The importance of this venture to the Northern Region cannot be over-emphasised. The Government is spending a lot of money on this project.

We must express our pleasure and felicitations to our brothers of the Northern Cameroons for their wise decision to remain with us in the Northern Region. They have restated their position as members of the same brotherhood with us, both traditionally and culturally, even before the advent of the British to this country. That is why they have refused to join the Southern Cameroons to form a separate Region and decided to continue to administer it with the Northern Region.

We are grateful to them, our traditional brothers, and we wish them every good luck that they may continue living with us peacefully as they have in the past.

Efforts are being made in all directions to establish a great number of industries to provide employment for Northerners. In

Kano at present, there are four groundnut-crushing mills which, in every year, use at least 80,000 tons of groundnuts. Apart from that, from our extensive pastoral grounds, a great amount of hides and skins that used to be exported for tanning are now tanned in Kano.

Similarly, in Kano, there is a large textile weaving centre and there are many other industries which employ a large number of people. In Zaria, there is a tobacco drying area and a ginnery.

In short, there has been established an enormous amount of new industries in the Region. Our great objective is that the production of such materials should be widely distributed in all parts of the Northern Region.

Our aim in the future is to have the necessary machinery and equipment which will manufacture our own raw materials in the Region. We also hope that the areas in which at present there are no electric or water facilities will acquire them through new industries.

We hope also that in the very near future there will be factories for making sacks and cigarettes as well as factories for making sugar, salt, paper and many other commodities.

The scope of the Co-operative Department has been expanded since 1952, during which time there has been an increase in the establishment of both expatriate and Nigerian Officers.

A special class has even been opened in the Institute of Administration at Zaria for the training of Co-operative Inspectors. And among the farmers that have joined in the co-operative movement there are those who have received a loan of £10,000 which will help them during the season so that they may not suffer in the sale of their produce.

Farmers' Bank

We have made an interim provision, before we reach the stage of establishing a Farmers' Co-operative Bank for £20,000 in order to assist the farmers who have joined co-operative societies.

We have seen that the way in which the Regional Development Board issues loans is not compatible with our ideas of how individuals should be so assisted.

Therefore, we are now considering a proposal to re-establish and incorporate the two Development Boards, namely, the Regional Production Development Board and the Regional Development (Loans) Board into one Corporation. In that way, we plan that our people will get more assistance by way of loans they require.

The Agricultural Department has truly done a great deal in increasing the yield of agricultural produce of the Region, and we are confident of yet greater success than that which we have achieved so far.

For example in 1951 the sale of groundnuts in this Region amounted to £9,321,000. In 1954, the sales grew to £9,900,000. As for cotton, 60,749 bales were sold in the corresponding year, but in this year 95,000 bales have been sold.

In 1951 the number of mixed farmers was 8,041 but in 1953 the number rose to 11,625.

The Veterinary Department has been fortunate. For, before 1952 there was not a single Northerner in the Senior Service. But now we are proud to have one Northerner as a qualified Veterinary Officer, apart from those at present under training in the United Kingdom. There are also one Northern Assistant Veterinary Officer and three Livestock Superintendents apart from those at present under training. A new vaccine against trypanosomiasis has been obtained and is very popular with the Fulani.

There is a growing demand for the vaccine and the response of the Fulani has been an encouraging sign of its general acceptability. For example in 1952 some 52,000 cattle were inoculated, and in 1953, 200,000 were inoculated while this year it is expected that not less than 300,000 will be inoculated.

Many large areas have been cleared which have enabled large numbers of cattle to breed, without any casualties, in the provinces of Benue, Niger, Zaria and Adamawa.

With regard to the Forestry Department, many people often do not appreciate its value. But if they consider the great amount of trouble that is taken in securing firewood in some places, and think of those places where the people suffer from lack of rainfall because of the scarcity of trees, then they will realise the advisability of setting up forest reserves in many areas.

At present many people are beginning to realise the usefulness of this department for, in 1951, we had 16,633 square miles of forest reserves; but now we have some 19,491 square miles.

This has shown us that the people have now begun to appreciate the usefulness of forest reserves for the purpose of obtaining firewood, for protection from the wind, and to attract rainfall to the area.

You all know the importance of minerals, such as tin and columbite, in the economy of the Region.

UNCLASSIFIED

Now what we have concentrated upon is to find experts on every type of mineral to prospect for us all the various mineral resources that are latent in the Northern soil.

Cement Industry

The Northern Region is getting a large amount of money in royalties from tin and columbite, and the mining industry is progressing satisfactorily.

Apart from tins and columbite, there may still be many other mineral resources. It is even likely that petrol can be obtained in the North.

At present, we know we have good clay for making cement and we have coal deposits, so you can see that as soon as we have sufficient funds, and when the needs for establishing such industries arise, we can easily embark upon them.

We are determined that with God's power we shall tap all the mineral resources that are still latent under the ground of the Northern Region.

At the present moment, negotiations are being held with an American firm which may come to Northern Nigeria to prospect for petrol.

The establishment of economic supplies of electricity is dependent on large scale industries. Nevertheless this will not debar us from installing electricity supplies in towns where the demand is sufficient.

As in the Ministry of Education training institutions have to be established first such as a School of Midwives at Kaduna, P.T.S. at Kano and the Medical School at Kano.

Leprosy campaign is going ahead and cases being treated have increased from 12,000 annually to 50,000.

A Malaria Control Scheme is going well ahead in West Sokoto, while a survey into the cause of blindness has been conducted in the Region, too.

Three combined hospitals have been replaced by new modern buildings. More than 200 dispensaries have been built during the period. The Regional Medical Store has been opened and also two Rural Health Centres.

UNCLASSIFIED

You will see on your agenda important topics for discussion on which we must concentrate our attention. Those topics include the relationship between the Northern Region and the other Regions of Nigeria, as well as proposals for the revision of the present constitution which is likely to take place next year. These two topics are of grave importance.

I know that it is not possible in a large convention like this to be able to decide on all the issues--that is to say, to resolve now on each and every proposal the policy that we should adopt when the time comes.

The reason why they are included on the agenda is to sound your views on them as well as to direct your attention to giving a great deal of thought to them.

You know that Nigeria, my compatriots, is now in a transitional period and you know that the constitutional set-up of all the Regions is not the same.

You must not forget our repeated utterances on the stand of our party: that we of the Northern Peoples Congress entertain no animosity or ill-feeling towards any tribe or any group of people resident in our Region so long as they live with us peacefully and harmoniously; and so long as they always bear in mind that they are working for the welfare and interest of our people.

We have often publicised to the world our good intention with regard to foreigners, working in our Region--that we shall always welcome any person, employee, a trade or a firm, irrespective of colour that comes out to the Northern Region with the good and friendly intention of helping the North in whatever way that will increase its prosperity either by establishing industries or by working in any other capacity.

Such people are always welcome to remain with us.

With regard to the proposal for the constitutional revision which is to take place next year, there are many points on which we must continuously give consideration and thought.

You know that in the Northern Region there are so many factors that require to be reviewed so that a way of revising and adapting them to the peace of our present trend of development can be obtained

We of the Northern People's Congress have the reputation of being the only political party in Nigeria which pays particular attention to consulting public opinion before agreeing to any major issue that may crop up before it. Indeed, we shall still continue in that vein and be consistent in that policy.

DECLASSIFIED

It is necessary that, in regard to all proposals that may be brought before us in connection with the revision of the constitution, we must seek the views of our people, so that we may base whatever decisions we may take on their own wishes. But you also know that detailed constitutional arrangements cannot be decided upon by a number of people, who, as in any other country in the world, are charged with that responsibility.

We should like you to think deeply on such points so that when 1956 comes, it will find us already prepared and fully armed.

May the Almighty God give us wisdom and foresight in our deliberations, and may He bless us all. Amen.